



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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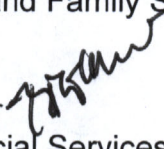
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June 7, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David Sanders, Director 
Department of Children and Family Services

Bryce Yokomizo, Director 
Department of Public Social Services

**DECEMBER 20, 2005 AMENDMENT TO BOARD AGENDA ITEM #44: SKID ROW
OUTREACH STRATEGIES**

On December 20, 2005, your Board instructed the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to further enhance Skid Row Outreach efforts by making the Skid Row Family Outreach Team's (SROT) first priority child safety. In addition, it was requested that the Departments provide a monthly update on the status of the project.

The following is a fourth monthly update on the status of the coordinated service enhancements made in order to assure child safety, provide ongoing case management and enforce the Board's zero tolerance policy for families on Skid Row and the related outreach activities.

MONTHLY OUTREACH ACTIVITY REPORT

During April 2006, the Skid Row team members encountered a total of 69 families. The attached report details the services provided to these families. Only three situations, outside of the skid row area, were assessed as rising to the level to necessitate the initiation of a referral of suspected child abuse to the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline (CAHL). These referrals were initiated by other mandated reporters in the 90013 zip code area.

STREET OUTREACH EFFORTS AND STAFFING

The joint team of LAHSA, DPSS, DMH and DCFS continues to provide outreach services to the families encountered on the streets of Skid Row during the daytime hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m. DPSS staff are at the Midnight Mission from 6 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Union Rescue Mission from 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m., and at the Weingart Center from noon to 5 p.m. In addition, in the evenings and weekends, the DCFS Emergency Response Command Post after-hours staff patrol the streets for unaccompanied and at risk children and redirect families into the missions.

DPSS continues to have three Homeless Case Managers collocated at Union Rescue Mission, Midnight Mission and Weingart Access Center, but has reduced the number of eligibility staff from eleven to nine, because of the declining number of families being seen on Skid Row. DMH continues to have one member on the SROT and five additional Psychiatrist Social Workers dedicated to provide mental health services at the 520 Maple Avenue Mental Health site. LAHSA continues to have two members on the team.

DCFS has had one full time Childrens' Social Worker (CSW) at the Union Rescue Mission, one full time CSW on the SROT, and one full-time Supervising Childrens' Social Worker (SCSW) to oversee this staff. Two additional full time CSWs were added on May 31, 2006. DCFS is in the process of recruiting two additional full-time CSWs, for a total of six, to work on Skid Row. The supervisor will oversee all CSWs on Skid Row. DCFS staff is at the Union Rescue Mission and participating on the SROT, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, in the evenings from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and on weekends, two DCFS Emergency Response Command Post after-hours staff patrol the streets for unaccompanied and at risk children and redirect families into the missions.

Program Site Managers representing each of the County Departments participating in the SROT - DPSS, DCFS, DMH, and LAHSA - continue to meet weekly to evaluate the effectiveness of the SROT procedures, meet with the SROT members, and conduct weekly case reviews with the SROT members. In addition, some sessions included the participation of the CAO Service Integration Branch. The process for conducting these

reviews will be enhanced to incorporate a team decision-making process facilitated by a team leader. It is anticipated that these modifications will enhance the overall quality of the sessions and ensure that there is appropriate follow through with each family.

DCFS does not have direct access on site to interview all of the families encountered by DPSS at the Midnight Mission and Weingart Access Center. To compensate for this lack of direct contact, DCFS allocated three laptop computers for the DCFS staff on the project. During the month of May, DCFS had some difficulty accessing the CWS/CMS database via these laptop computers within the Union Rescue Mission. An alternative process was developed and DCFS is being allowed to share a computer line with the URM staff to facilitate access to the web.

CONTRACTED SERVICES

DPSS has entered into an agreement with Beyond Shelter, an agency with many years of experience in working with, and obtaining permanent housing for, homeless families, to provide training for their Homeless Case Managers to strengthen the services provided to Skid Row families. As a part of this training, Beyond Shelter staff attends the daily case review sessions with DPSS, DCFS, DMH, DHS and LAHSA staff working on Skid Row, and provides case management guidance to the DPSS Homeless Case Managers immediately following the sessions. During the daily case reviews Beyond Shelter also accepts direct referrals to their very successful Housing First program. Beyond Shelter will be providing training to DPSS Homeless Case Managers throughout the county, as well as those working on Skid Row.

SPACE ACQUISITION

During the month of May, the CAO Service Integration branch was able to identify space for the County teams within Midnight Mission. While this space is not currently developed and requires substantial renovation, it does provide the sufficient square footage to collocate various members of the team in a central place. This collocation will facilitate the team's ability to conduct joint interviews and access the computer systems for each of the respective County departments via desktop computers.

Date of occupancy is to be determined.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The Department of Children and Family Services and Public Social Services remain committed to attaining the goals of assuring child safety, providing ongoing case management and enforcing the Board's zero tolerance policy for families on Skid Row. We are excited about the new opportunities that have been identified during the collaboration between County Departments and the community agencies that will assist

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Skid Row families in the care and protection of children. At this time, we are in the process of reviewing our existing protocols with the Chief Administrative Office Service Integration Branch in an attempt to enhance our efforts to provide on-going services to homeless families.

DS:BY:rm

Attachment:

April 2006 - Monthly Report on Skid Row Outreach Strategies

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

MONTHLY REPORT ON SKID ROW OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Month of: April 2006

	This Month	Since 1/1/2006
A. Families seen by DPSS EWs and SROT		
1. Walk-ins at Weingart Access Center	6	44
2. Walk-ins at Midnight Mission	30	114
3. Walk-ins at Union Rescue Mission	27	56
4. Contacted by Skid Row Outreach Team	6	37
a. Taken/referred to the Weingart Access Center/Midnight Mission/UR	5	8
b. Not taken/referred to the Weingart Access Center/Midnight Mission/UR	1	29
Total (from A.1+ 2+3+4)	69	251
B. Families Receiving or Referred to CalWORKs		
1. Number of families receiving CalWORKs	53	188
2. Number of families referred to CalWORKs	15	41
3. Number of families who declined a CalWORKs referral	1	22
Total (B.1+2+3)	69	251
C. Reason Families Decline a CalWORKs Referral (from B.3)		
1. Immigration status	0	3
2. Receiving aid in another state	0	3
3. Concerned with DCFS involvement	0	0
4. Child custody issues	1	5
5. Refused to state	0	1
6. Other (state reason)	0	10
Total (C.1+2+3+4+5+6)	1	22
D. Families Referred To CalWORKs (from B.2)		
1. Approved and issued CalWORKs	15	36
2. Denied CalWORKs (i.e., excess income, working full-time)	0	1
3. Not processed (client walked out)	0	4
Total (D.1+2+3)	15	41
E. Homeless Assistance/Services (from B.1 and D.1)		
1. Approved and issued Homeless Assistance (HA)	22	67
2. Denied Homeless Assistance (not homeless, exhausted benefits)	36	123
a. Exhausted benefits/Referred for emergency shelter/voucher	34	88
b. Not homeless/Staying with friends/relatives or other housing arrangement	2	35
3. Declined DPSS Homeless Assistance	10	45
Total (E.1+2+3)	68	235
F. Reason for Declining Homeless Assistance (from E.3)		
1. Already participating in a homeless program with a shelter/mission	9	27
2. Other arrangement: Staying with friends	1	18
Total (F.1+2)	10	45
G. Welfare-to-Work (from B.1 and D.1)		
1. In GAIN	42	103
2. Employed	3	34
3. GAIN Exempt	18	68
a. Disabled	1	4
b. Child under 1	7	27
c. Undocumented/Child only	10	33
d. Caring for disabled relative	0	0
4. Time Limited	5	11
Total (G.1+2+3+4)	68	216
H. Department of Mental Health (DMH) Services		
1. Evaluated for the CalWORKs Homeless Families Project	2	2
2. Referred for Clinical Assessment/Referred to Downtown Mental Health	12	34
3. Referred for Crisis Intervention	1	1
4. Referred for Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT) evaluation	1	1
I. Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)		
1. Conducted DCFS assessment	22	115
2. Referred to Child Protective Services/Hotline	0	10
3. Referred to Family Supportive Services (i.e., family intervention/counseling/etc.)	30	38